

Fall 2015

Hist 100: Gateway to History: Abraham Lincoln's America

Room: Building LChas Room 122

Class Times: MW 2:00-3:15pm

Instructor: Larry Hudson

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday: 4:30-5:30pm (or by appointment)

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Course Description

Amid the celebrations that marked the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the nation's 16th President's role in "freeing the slaves" occupied so much of the scholarly and popular attention that many of his other achievements were overshadowed. This course reviews Lincoln's contribution to a burgeoning American Nationalism; primarily through his role as leader of the newly formed Republican Party, but also, using his own words and actions, by reassessing his performance as President, and Commander-in-Chief.

The course will suggest that Lincoln, in guiding the nation through an increasingly bitter civil war, while attempting to preserve the Union, above all else, was driven by an acute nationalism. A close look at his speeches, actions, and leadership style will permit an examination of the forces underlying the shift in

Lincoln's focus from "saving the Union," to creating a "new nation."

Drawing heavily on his own words, the course will evaluate Lincoln's contribution to American nationalism. It will be structured around a selection of Lincoln's speeches and writings, and supplemented by historian Eric Foner's monograph: The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery.

Course Requirements:

Class Paper: (Due 14 Sept.) 10%; Weekly Annotation and Reaction Papers (Due the Wednesday after Monday's Class Discussion, first due on Wednesday 23 Sept.) 50%; Class Participation 10%; Research Paper 30%. Electronic and hard copies of all assignments will be required by their due date.

A Word on Note Taking and Research:

As the material from the Assigned Text(s) (supplemented where necessary by the Additional Readings) will inform our discussions throughout the course, as well as constitute the major sources on which you will draw for your Class and Research Papers, you will need to keep clear and detailed notes from all your reading.

For your Information:

The faculty of the Department of History considers class attendance essential to the mastering of the content of its courses and the production of quality history papers. Students who have to miss class should inform the instructor of the reason for their absence, in advance whenever possible.

In addition, students should come to class prepared to comment on and discuss the Assigned Readings.

If you have a physical or mental disability that requires an accommodation or academic adjustment, please arrange to meet with me at your earliest convenience.

Required Texts:

Eric Foner, The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery, New York: Norton, 2010

Electronic version of Lincoln's speeches, Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln, edited by Roy P. Basler are available at: <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/l/lincoln/>

Course Outline

Classes will meet on Monday and Wednesday

Week One Monday 31 August **Introduction**

Names and Naming

Reading for Weeks One and Two:

E. H. Carr, What is History? chaps. 1-2 (Blackboard)

Week Two (Wed.) September 9 **What is History?**

First Class Paper due Sept. 14

Reading for Week Three: See Essay Prompt Handout

Week Three Monday Sept. 14 **Writing Good History**

Reading for Week Four:

A] Eric Foner, The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery, pp. 3-29.

B] Lyceum Address, January 27, 1838.

(First Response/Annotated Paper due Wed. 23 Sept.)

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/lyceum.htm>

Week Four Monday September 21 **Lincoln: The Early Years**

Reading for Week Five:

A] Temperance Address, Springfield, Illinois, February 22, 1842.

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/temperance.htm>

B] Foner, The Fiery Trial, pp. 29-32.

Week Five Monday September 28 **First Steps into Politics**

Reading for Week Six:

A] Eulogy on Henry Clay, Springfield, Illinois, July 6, 1852, 85

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/clay.htm>

B] Foner, The Fiery Trial, chap. 2.

Week Six Monday 5 Fall Break

Wed October 7 **Lincoln: The Party Politician**

Reading for Week Seven:

A] Kansas-Nebraska, Peoria Speech, October 16, 1854, 93

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/l/lincoln/lincoln2/1:282?rgn=div1;singlegenre=All;sort=occur;subview=detail;type=boolean;view=fulltext;q1=peoria>

B] Foner, The Fiery Trial, chap. 3

Week Seven Monday October 12 **Slavery! Slavery!**

Reading for Week Eight:

A] Speech on the Dred Scott Decision, Speech at Springfield, Illinois, June 26, 1857, 117

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/l/lincoln/lincoln2/1:438?rgn=div1;submit=Go;subview=detail;type=simple;view=fulltext;q1=dred+scott>

B] "House Divided" Speech, Springfield, IL: June 16, 1858, 131

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/house.htm>

C] Foner, The Fiery Trial, chap. 4

Week Eight Monday October 19 **Race, Ethnicity, and Slavery**

Reading for Week Nine:

A] Cooper Union Speech, February 27, 1860, 240

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/cooper.htm>

B] Foner, The Fiery Trial, chap. pp. 132-144.

Week Nine Monday October 26 **Performing on the National Stage**

Reading for Week Ten:

A] Farewell Address, February 11, 1861, 277

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/farewell.htm>

B] First Inaugural Address of Abraham Lincoln, Monday, March 4, 1861, 284

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/inaug.htm>

C] Foner, The Fiery Trial, pp. 144-165

Week Ten Monday November 2 **To War!**

Reading for Week 11:

A] Address on Colonization to a Deputation of Negroes, August 14, 1862

<http://www.counter-currents.com/2013/01/address-on-colonization-to-a-deputation-of-negroes/>

B] Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, September 22, 1862

http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/american_originals_iv/sections/transcript_preliminary_emancipation.html

C] Foner, The Fiery Trial, chap. 6

Week Eleven Monday November 9 **Lincoln: Commander-in-Chief**

Reading for Week 12:

A] Gettysburg Address, November 19, 1863, (Bliss Copy)

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/gettysburg.htm>

B] Address at Sanitary Fair in Baltimore: A Lecture on Liberty, April 18, 1864

<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/address-at-a-sanitary-fair/>

C] Foner, The Fiery Trial, chap. 7

Week Twelve Monday November 16 **New Nation; New Nationalism**

Reading for Week 13:

A] Second Inaugural Address, Saturday, March 4, 1865

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/inaug2.htm>

B] Last Public Speech, April 11, 1865

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/last.htm>

C] Foner, The Fiery Trial, Chap 8

Week Thirteen Monday November 23

Thanksgiving Break Nov. 25-29

Reading for Week 14:

Foner, The Fiery Trial, chap. 9 and Epilogue

Week Fourteen Monday November 30

Research Paper Prep: **Foner's/Spielbergs Lincoln(s)?**

Week Fifteen Monday December 7

Research Presentations

Last Class Wed 9 Dec.

Research Paper due-Hard copy in class, and electronic copy.

Additional Reading

Writing and Footnoting **Guide: Quick and Dirty Guide**

Abraham Lincoln, Selected Speeches and Writings, with an introduction by Gore Vidal, New York: Library of America, 2009

Selected Speeches and Writings by Abraham Lincoln :

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/speechintro.htm>

Declaration of Independence

US Constitution